

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:CBROWN/JL

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EUR/EE - NGANDREWS

C - MR. SHINN

S/S - MR. EALUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089897

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, RO

SUBJECT: TRADE AGREEMENT

REF: BUCHAREST 1665

1. WHILE WE FULLY APPRECIATE, AND INDEED SHARE, YOUR ANXIETY TO MOVE TRADE AGREEMENT, WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED A NUMBER OF PROCEDURAL AND LEGAL HURDLES WHICH HAVE HELD UP SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS. FURTHER, DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD HAVE UNDERSTANDABLY OCCUPIED TIME OF A NUMBER OF KEY PLAYERS IN THIS PROCESS. IN ANY EVENT, NONE OF THESE LAST-MINUTE HITCHES BEAR ON SUBSTANCE OF WHAT YOU HAVE NEGOTIATED, AND WE NOW HAVE THEM WORKED OUT. UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE IN NO BETTER POSITION NOW THAN BEFORE TO SAY WHEN PACKAGE WILL GO FORWARD, BUT EVERYONE AT THIS END IS WORKING TO GET THIS DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. IN COPING WITH THE ROMANIANS' FRETting, YOU MIGHT TAKE THE SAME LINE WE ARE FOLLOWING HERE, WHICH IS THAT
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THIS AGREEMENT IS THE FIRST WE HAVE NEGOTIATED UNDER THE

NEW TRADE ACT, IT IS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED, FRAUGHT WITH FINE LEGAL NICETIES REQUIRING MOST CAREFUL REVIEW BY A BATTERY OF LAWYERS AND EXPERTS IN THE WHITE HOUSE, STATE, JUSTICE, STR AND OTHER AGENCIES. (FYI: AS YOU CAN

APPRECIATE, MOST OF THESE PEOPLE WERE NOT INVOLVED IN ANY STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATION AND WERE THEREFORE DEALING WITH THE WHOLE PACKAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME). GIVEN THE NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS INVOLVED AND THE SENSITIVITY OF SOME ISSUES, THIS REVIEW PROCESS NATURALLY HAS BEEN VERY TIME-CONSUMING. THESE DELAYS SHOULD NOT, REPEAT NOTBE CONSTRUED AS INVOLVING ANY POINTS OF SUBSTANCE, HOWEVER, AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL GO TO THE CONGRESS IMMINENTLY.

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